

Attorney Docket No. 24224
Serial No. 09/610,489

claims, while Attachment B is a clean copy of the amended claims. The Attachments are included in accordance with the regulations implementing the AIPA.

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are currently under consideration in the present patent application. Claims 1, 15 and 33 are independent claims drawn to a rapid-melt semi-solid composition and method of preparing the same, respectively. The remaining claims depend from the independent claims. Claims 1, 9-12 and 23-26 have been amended in accordance with discussion between the Examiner and Applicant's representative on December 6, 2001. Applicant is very appreciative of the Examiner's willingness to work with Applicant in order to bring the claims into condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter within the meaning of 35 USC 132 is added by the amendment.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the above remarks and the telephone conversation between the Examiner and Applicant's attorney, the presently claimed subject matter is believed to be novel and patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record. The Examiner is